

children and grandchildren and it is a poor way to prepare for the next century.

We cannot count on the favorable trends continuing; the wise thing to do is to wait and see what happens. We should also wait until Congress takes steps to shore up Social Security. We should not be spending the surpluses until the government's revenue and spending excluding Social Security are in balance and Social Security's long-term fiscal imbalance has been addressed. It is certainly premature to talk about spending a surplus when we have huge entitlement costs looming before us in the near future. We shouldn't spend money we may not have. Moreover, I don't see the American people crying out for government action, either on the spending side or the revenue side. And, with the economy performing quite well, I see little reason for changing the government's fiscal approach at the present time. So I think we should resist the proposals calling for new tax cuts or increased government spending. I believe we will get a higher economic return from future surpluses by using them to whittle down the \$3.8 trillion in federal debt held by the public.

I understand that it is possible to use the surplus to carefully craft tax cuts or new spending programs that deepen the nation's long-term capital base and encourage economic growth. But I am not at all sure that those sound proposals would emerge from the legislative process. On balance debt reduction probably makes more sense.

#### CONCLUSION

So my preference is to leave the budget surplus alone, and if sizeable surpluses do in fact arrive they should be committed to our future, not to the present. It seems clear to me that those who want to reduce the surpluses, whether by tax cuts or spending increases, will be impairing the incomes of our children and grandchildren. They are making a clear choice, preferring our generation to future generations.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE ISRAELI MIA'S

##### HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the capture of several Israeli soldiers who were taken prisoner by the Syrians in the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The Syrians succeeded in capturing Sgt. Zachary Baumel, 1st Sgt. Zvi Feldman and Cpt. Yehudah Katz. Upon arrival in Damascus, the identified tank and crew were paraded through the streets draped in Syrian and Palestinian flags.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the Israeli and the United States Governments have been working to obtain any possible information about the fate of these missing soldiers, joining forces with the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations and other international bodies. According to the Geneva convention, the area in Lebanon where the soldiers first disappeared was continually controlled by Syria, therefore deeming her responsible for the treatment of the captured soldiers. To this day, despite the promises made by the Syrian Government and by the PLO, very little information has been forthcoming about the condition of

Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

June 11 marks the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Sixteen pain-filled years have already passed since the families of the MIA's have last seen their sons, and yet President Assad has still not revealed their whereabouts.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my district in Brooklyn, NY. A dedicated basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members, and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate had unfortunately decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982 he vanished.

Zachary's parents, Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations. The Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls forged a project that has increased awareness and support for the MIAs plight for freedom. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their devoted efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in commending their efforts. These families have been without their children for sixteen years. Answers must be found.

#### THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARYLAND REHABILITATION CENTER

##### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Maryland Rehabilitation Center, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on June 19, 1998. Since opening its doors in 1973, the Center has gained international recognition as a provider of quality comprehensive rehabilitation services. At the Center, more than 50,000 individuals with disabilities have received the services they need to help them reach employment goals and achieve greater independence.

Located on 14 acres in northeast Baltimore, Maryland, the Maryland Rehabilitation Center is operated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services. It is one of only nine comprehensive vocational rehabilitation centers in the United States, and has earned an international reputation for its innovative approach to helping individuals circumvent or compensate for their disabilities.

In carrying out its mission, the Center offers a wide variety of services, including evaluations, therapies, and training programs. In helping those with disabilities become as inde-

pendent as possible, the Center helps identify suitable vocational goals and therapy needs.

Occupational training is offered in 12 areas, including office technology, computer programming, automotive repair and cosmetology. The Center often works with employers to hire qualified individuals who have the skills to do the job. In addition, the Center also offers remedial education, counseling, driver's education and specialized services for individuals who are deaf and/or blind.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the Maryland Rehabilitation Center for its dedication and commitment to helping those with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. The Center's pioneering work has given thousands of individuals an opportunity to achieve success.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SPINA

##### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 10, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a remarkable man, Samuel Spina, the Mayor of the Township of West Orange, New Jersey. Sam and I have worked together for many years. His colleagues and I agree that he has always been considered to be one of the most dedicated and conscientious public servants in our great state.

Born and raised in West Orange, Sam attended local schools and received his degree from Seton Hall University. Following graduation, Sam served our country in the United States Marine Corps. After completing his service commitment, he returned to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Joan Coen. Settling in West Orange, they raised seven children, and have more recently been blessed with six grandchildren.

Mayor Spina began his distinguished career in public service in 1970 when he was elected to the West Orange Township Council, receiving more votes than any other candidate in that open election. In May 1978, Sam was elected Mayor for the first time. In 1982, Sam became the first candidate for Mayor to run unopposed in the history of West Orange. Clearly his talents and keen insight into public policy were not lost on the electorate. After being elected to an unprecedented fifth term in 1994, he continues to serve in that position to this day.

The citizens' appreciation of Sam's service and the recognition from his peers have been unparalleled. He was elected to serve as the President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in April 1988. Mayor Spina took the office to which he was elected seriously, making a concerted effort to educate the people of the Garden State on the fundamentals of local government. In 1991, he was elected Chairman of the Essex County Conference of Mayors.

In addition to his respected political career, Sam has been extremely active in the West Orange community. Known throughout Essex County as a man who gives freely of his time, he frequently can be seen at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He is also dedicated to recognizing and promoting the interests of our seniors and disabled citizens, often organizing

activities devoted expressly to them. Mayor Spina is also a valued member of the World Wildlife Fund, Common Cause, the West Orange Animal Welfare League, and GASP.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the citizens of West Orange, and Sam's friends and family as we recognize Mayor Samuel Spina's valuable contribution to the community.

#### TIME TO PAY OUR U.N. DUES

#### HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, it is time to pay the arrears that we owe to the United Nations.

I include for printing in the RECORD a letter from the Honorable John Whitehead, Deputy Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration, and Chair of the United Nations Association. Mr. Whitehead eloquently outlines the reasons we should pay our arrears, and the costs to United States interests if we do not. He further refutes effectively the argument some have made that we do not actually owe this money to the United Nations.

I urge my colleagues to read this letter, and call on the Congress to take action to pay what we owe.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

June 1, 1998.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: The United Nations Association of the USA, representing millions of Americans through its nationwide chapters and affiliated organizations, regrets the continuing impasse over payment of US arrears to the United Nations. We urge you to consider the following points during the weeks ahead as Congress grapples with the problem of meeting long-standing financial obligations to the United Nations.

The United States, first of all, faces the loss of its vote in the UN General Assembly at the end of this year under Article 19 of the UN Charter. This penalty is automatically applied if a member state's arrears at the year exceed the previous two years' assessments. With the world's largest economy by far, the US historically has been the largest contributor to the UN system. But, the US is now responsible for some 60 percent of the debt of all member states—arrears more than double the UN's annual regular budget, which are crippling UN capabilities and paralyzing peacekeeping. Although various contingencies could avoid America's loss of vote at the start of 1999, the mere possibility that the world's leader may be placed in such a position does not benefit our great nation.

On another issue of evident priority to American policymakers, the US now has a limited window of opportunity to negotiate a lowering of its United Nations assessment—from its present rate of 25 percent of the UN's regular budget to 22 percent. UN member states have indicated a willingness to reopen negotiations on the assessment level if a substantial amount of US arrears are paid. One might note that the Reagan Administration—in which I served as Deputy Secretary of State—had opposed such a reduction, fearing diminished influence would follow; other countries oppose it on grounds of equity: A member state's assessment is based primarily on "capacity to pay," largely measured by each member's share of world in-

come—over 26 percent for the United States. The US already pays less than this amount. In contrast, for example the 15 member states of the European Union which account for 30.8 percent of world income, are assessed 36.2 percent of UN costs. The assessment on the Japanese, even with their ailing economy, will rise to just above 20 percent in the year 2000.

Those calling for a lowering of the US rate of assessment argue that this country makes appreciable contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security in other ways, particularly through its defense commitments and refugee and other emergency relief programs. They argue that the United Nations does not reimburse the US for these contributions. When the United States Government decides to launch such operations on its own, under its own control—even if blessed by authorizing United Nations Security Council resolutions—other countries have no say in the mission (and indeed, may see it as susceptible to manipulation for US advantage). We would rightly object to paying through the UN for Russian troops under Russian command in Georgia, or for Nigerian troops under Nigerian command in Sierra Leone—so we cannot claim that the rest of the world owes us money for US operations. The Italians, who led a mission in Albania with very close Security Council oversight, acknowledge they have no claim to reimbursement from other UN members for the costs of that operation. With UN control goes UN financial responsibility—and with national control goes national financial responsibility. If a country asserts exclusive control over its deployments, it volunteers to pay the costs on its own.

Most of the United States' debt to the United Nations actually is owed to past peacekeeping activities, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, which the US voted to create. This means that many countries are owed significant sums for their previous contributions of troops and equipment to peacekeeping operations, and countries are increasingly reluctant to offer troops to the UN when there is no reimbursement. There is no doubt that UN peacekeeping is a cost-effective investment in stability—but if UN peacekeeping is to survive, the United States must pay its share of those expenses.

For all the furious debate over US financial contributions to the agencies and activities of the UN system, the US annually spends only about 0.1 percent of our federal budget—or \$7 per American—on all voluntary as well as assessed contributions. These limited amounts provide support to combat malnutrition, contain the spread of infectious diseases, minimize the devastating impact of refugee flows, harmonize actions on global environmental initiative, provide economic assistance to developing countries and provide for a neutral intervenor to keep the peace in potentially volatile political situations.

The American people do not want the United States to accept the costs of single-handedly being the world's policeman or to address on its own a host of worldwide social, economic and environmental challenges. It serves the national interest to promote consensus-building and burdensharing at the international level and to strengthen the notion of the rule of law on which international stability rests. Opinion research consistently finds that an overwhelming majority of Americans believe in strengthening the United Nations to meet the challenges before us. In a world characterized by a growing web of global connections, the United Nations and its system of agencies and programs offer unique and essential avenues for the United States to exercise leader-

ship in support of its values and its vision for the future.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. WHITEHEAD,  
Chairman.

#### TRIBUTE TO GISSELLE RUIZ

#### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Ms. Gisselle Ruiz of Lynn, Massachusetts who has received an award from the Lynn Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Inc. for academic excellence.

I hope Gisselle appreciates and is proud of her accomplishments. She is most deserving of the many awards which have been bestowed upon her. Her leadership potential and her willingness to give back to her community are evident by the extracurricular activities she has chosen. She is a role model for her peers and an inspiration to her family, being the first to graduate from high school and go on to college. I trust that she understands the value of continuing her education and hope that she will continue her hard work. Her dedication and commitment are to be commended. I have no doubt that she will be successful in her future endeavors.

Indeed, Ms. Ruiz has worked hard to achieve her goals. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here to recognize the accomplishments of Gisselle Ruiz and I hope my colleagues will join me today in wishing Ms. Ruiz the very best as she continues her education.

THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS: LEADING THE FIGHT TO KEEP DRUGS FROM REACHING U.S. BORDERS, WHILE PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues are aware, there has been a concerted effort on many fronts to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA). The opponents of the school have often used distorted or false information that only serves one purpose—to mislead the American public. Opponents of the U.S. Army School of the Americas are correct to point out that several of the school's graduates have been implicated in crimes, corruption, and human rights violations. Press reports have accurately noted that former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was a former student, as was one of the Salvadoran officers responsible for the 1989 assassination of six Jesuit priests. However, my colleagues should be aware that more than 60,000 young Latin American officers have graduated from the SOA since its creation in 1946, the vast majority of whom have served their nations honorably and responsibly. Graduates of the SOA are personally responsible for the return of democracy in Latin American